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12/07/2016

Anderson, Diane

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Paul  
Arends <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 5, 2016 11:17 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Disbarring Attorneys because of personal beliefs regarding sexual orientation

Dec 6, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

When I was informed of this upcoming ruling, I found it incredulous that this kind of precedent would find its way into Montana law. Not only does this violate our constitutional rights of free exercise of religion and speech, but it regulates what every person in this state must believe or face certain consequences. This is a slippery slope that will bring undue irreversible foolishness and hardship to our already very tolerant Montana culture. Even the Supreme Court justices will be subject to stepping down if they personally hold beliefs and opinions contrary to the LGBT lifestyle. This is a pandora's box that should be avoided. Practicing law in this state is not a government position, but a private practice. What comes next? Shutting down every private business and family that does not hold to LGBT values and practices. This is not about discrimination, but control and an attempt to eventually control all laws and institutions in our state.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Arends  
409 Orchard Ridge Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901-7565  
(406) 257-0341  
[paul@therivermontana.com](mailto:paul@therivermontana.com)

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